

REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed on December 17, 2004. Claims 1, 2, 12, 16, 17, 27, 32, 40, 41, 44, 47, 49, 55, 61, 62 and 70-74 are pending in the application with Claims 1, 12, 16, 27, 47, 55, 62 and 73 being in independent form.

By the present preliminary amendment, the abstract and Claims 1, 2, 12, 16, 17, 27, 40, 41, 44, 47, 49, 55, 62 and 70 have been amended; Claims 3-7, 9-11, 13-15, 18-26, 33-39, 42, 43, 45, 46, 48, 50-54, 56-60 and 63-69 have been cancelled; and Claims 72-74 have been added. It is believed that no new matter is introduced into the claims by the amendments.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the input and suggestions provided to the Applicants by Examiner Clement Graham during an informal telephone interview on January 18, 2005 for better defining their claimed subject matter. Applicants amended the independent claims to better define their claimed subject matter and to overcome the rejections cited in the Final Office Action dated December 17, 2004 in an effort to expedite the allowance of the present application.

In the Final Office Action, the abstract was objected to. Applicants have amended the abstract to overcome the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9-27, 32-71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,760,470 issued to Bogosian et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,794,219 issued to Brown. Claims 3-7, 9-11, 13-15, 18-26, 33-39, 42, 43, 45, 46, 48, 50-54, 56-60 and 63-69 have been cancelled. Independent Claims 1, 12, 16, 27, 47, 55 and 62 have been amended and are believed to patentably distinguish Applicants' claimed subject matter over the

art of record. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection with respect to independent Claims 1, 12, 16, 27, 47, 55 and 62 and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 17, 32, 40, 41, 44, 49 and 61 depend from independent Claims 1, 16, 47 and 55 and therefore include the recitations of these independent claims. Hence, withdrawal of the rejection with respect to dependent Claims 2, 17, 32, 40, 41, 44, 49 and 61 and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

New Claims 72-74 recite subject matter which is not believed to be anticipated or unpatentable over the art of record. Accordingly, allowance of new Claims 72-74 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and allowance thereof is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned Applicant at (631) 220-5706.

Respectfully submitted,



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